

Tegali language

Tegali (also spelled *Tagale*, *Tegele*, *Tekele*, *Togole*) is a Kordofanian language in the Rashad family, which belongs to the larger Niger–Congo phylum (Greenberg 1963, Schadeberg 1981, Williamson & Blench 2000).^[2] It is spoken in South Kordofan state, Sudan.

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Classification

The Rashad family of language consists of two dialect clusters, "Tegali" and "Tagoi". They are spoken on two mountain ranges to the north and north-west of Rashad.^[3] These languages are spoken in the Tegali Hills in the north-east of the Nuba Mountains, the home of the former "Tegali Kingdom".^[4]

Dialects/varieties

Tegali has three varieties, Rashad (Gom, Kom, Kome, Ngakom), Tegali, and Tingal (Kajaja, Kajakja). *Ethnologue* states that Rashed and Tegali dialects are nearly identical.^[5] Tucker and Bryan list Rashad as almost identical to Tegali, "perhaps a mere variation of one language";^[6] however, Greenberg lists it as a separate language.^[7] Welmers suggests Tingal as a dialect of Tegali;^[8] Tucker and Bryan report this as different from Tegali and Rashad, but as definitely belonging to the Tegali branch.^[6]

Geographic distribution

Tegali	
Tagale, Tegele, Tekele, Togole	
<div><div></div><div></div></div>	
Native to	Sudan
Region	South Kordofan
Ethnicity	Tagale
Native speakers	(35,700 cited 1984)[1] (https://www.ethnologue.com/language/ras)
Language family	<div>Niger–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rashad<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tegali</div>
Dialects	<div>Gom</div> <div>Tegali</div> <div>Tingal</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	ras [2] (https://www.ethnologue.com/language/ras)
Glottolog	tega1236 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/tega1236) Tegali ^[1]

There are 35,700 native speakers of Tegali in South Kordofan state, Sudan.^[5] Speakers are distributed in the hills between the Rashud-Rashad and Rashad-Umm Ruwaba roads, with a few outlying hills west of Rashad (including Tagoi and Tarjok) and scattered hills south of Rashad.^[9]

Dialects/varieties distribution

Among the three dialects, Tegali has about 16,000 speakers located on the Tegali range. Rashad has about 5,000 speakers in the Rashad hills in the southern part of the Tegali range, also in Rashad town. Tingal (Kajakja) has about 2,100 speakers.^[9]

Grammar/vocabulary

Tegali is closely related to Tagoi. The most conspicuous difference between the two dialect clusters is that Tagoi has a complex system of noun classes while Tegali does not. Tegali and Tagoi share about 70% basic vocabulary (100-word list). Different explanations exist for why Tegali dialects lack of noun class system. Greenberg (1963), who excludes the possibility of mass borrowing of basic vocabulary in Tagoi, regards the two dialect clusters as closely related and assumes the loss of noun classes in the Tegali dialects.^[10]

Examples

Numeral system

Tegali has a counting system similar to that of Tagoi. But now they seemed have developed a more complete numeral system. There is an option for the number 20 'fəŋəndən rəkkū'.^[11]

References

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External links

- [Tegali at the Endangered Languages Project](http://www.endangeredlanguages.com/lang/182/guide) (<http://www.endangeredlanguages.com/lang/182/guide>)
 - Simons, Gary F. and Charles D. Fennig (eds.). 2017. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Twentieth edition*. (<http://www.ethnologue.com>) Dallas, Texas: SIL International.
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 - Tegali at the *Numeral Systems of the World's Languages* (<https://mpi-lingweb.shh.mpg.de/numeral/Tegali.htm>)
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